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STATES RELATIONS SERVICE
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THIS LOOKS GOOD

HOW A COUNTY AGENT ASSISTED IN STANDARDIZING WHEAT VARIETIES.

The great influence which a county agent may exert in the standardization of varieties is illustrated in the annual report of H. G. Avery, county agent in Jerome County, Idaho. Mr. Avery found by survey that there was very little if any pure wheat of any variety grown in the county. All reports of farmers who were growing pure seed were run down. In some ninety cases it was found that there were at least two kinds of wheat growing and frequently some barley.

A six year test of wheat adapted to Southern Idaho conducted by the Aberdeen substation showed that Diclow seed produced five bushels more per acre than any other wheat. There was no pure Diclow growing in the county. The first step in improvement work was the awakening of a desire for better seed. The project leader in county extension organization issued a general invitation to grain growers to attend a field excursion. The fact that only 30 farmers out of a possible 250 attended this excursion shows the need of awakening interest. Following the excursion the project leader brought in a car load of pure seed to be distributed at cost. In all 1000 bushels of wheat were distributed. Field excursions were planned to the fields in 1918 and much interest was aroused because of their better condition. All members of the party were convinced that the "new wheat" would make larger yields. The agronomist from the State extension division inspected the fields for purity. The threshed grain was afterwards inspected. Most of the products were certified. The fields showed a purity test of better than 99%. The sale of wheat was handled and promoted by the farm bureau.

Nearly every community was included in the improvement work for 1920. In each case the community committeeman in charge of grain standardization was appointed. He was instructed to furnish information as to where certified seed could be secured and to attempt to secure the planting of at least five plots in a community. This was accomplished in nearly every community. Orders for six cars of wheat were directed to Jerome County which was more than the county was able to supply. The prices received varied from \$5 to \$6 per hundred and had the entire production been sold the county would have needed around \$30,000 above the market price for milling wheat. However, the farm bureau committees saw that this was not done as a large percentage of the certified seed was retained for seeding locally for next year's crop.

The extension agronomist estimated that the Diclow wheat gave a yield of five bushels per acre over other fields. Two farmers report yields of 92 and 98 bushels per acre respectively.

The excursion held during the past year created unusual interest and was largely attended. Farmers of the county are now interested in getting more pure wheat and in keeping it pure.

County Agent Section
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